



DPCB ENCDD &lt;dpcb.encdd@gmail.com&gt;

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**DOH Request Letter re: Multiple Sclerosis**

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**hans damian** <hdammd@yahoo.com>  
To: DPCB ENCDD <dpcb.encdd@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 10:06 AM

Dear Director Arevalo

This is in regard to the letter of request sent to my by DPCB ENCDD.

Allow me to give a summary of my responses to the three questions related to Multiple Sclerosis (MS) enumerated in the letter.

**1. Availability and cost of Teriflunamide**

-to my knowledge Teriflunamide (Aubagio) oral tablets has not been and is not now commercially available in the Philippines for MS treatment

-several physicians and medical centers in the Philippines, including myself at SLMC QC, participated in the Teriflunamide trials for a brief period around 2010 or so, prior to US FDA approval, but subsequently the drug was not made available here

**2. Availability and cost of MS treatment available**

The following options are (or have been) available for MS treatment in the Philippines...

**MS Disease Modification**

- Interferon beta-1b (Betaferon) injectables
- Interferon beta-1a (Rebif) injectables
- Fingolimod (Gilenya) tabs
- Rituximab (Mabthera) for IV administration
- Alemtuzumab for IV administration

-Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) : several brands are available (Gamunex, Octagam, IV Globulin, Gamma IV)

-Azathioprine (Imuran), Mycophenolate (Cellcept) and methotrexate are among the older treatments that have been available in tablet form for some time as well as the IV preparation of Cyclophosphamide (Cytoxan)

**Acute Relapse Treatment**

- Methylprednisolone (Solumedrol) for IV administration is widely available
- Prednisone tablets and other corticosteroids are also readily available

**Symptomatic Therapy**

We do have a number of different medications are available which I can assist you with if there is a specific symptom that you have a question with

examples:

- Baclofen for spasticity
- Amantadine for fatigue
- Gabapentin and Pregabalin for neuropathic pain
- Bethanechol for bladder difficulty, etc.



Republic of the Philippines  
**Food and Drug Administration**  
Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City  
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

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## Teriflunomide -Aubagio

Pri

Registration No: DR-XY45633

Generic Name: Teriflunomide

Brand Name: Aubagio

Strength: 14mg

Form: Film-Coated Tablet

Packaging: Alu/Alu blister pack x 14's, 2 blister pack enclosed in a carton wallet and sleeve (Box of 28's)

Manufacturer: Sanofi Winthrop Industrie

Trader:

Importer: sanofi-aventis Philippines, Inc.

Distributor:

Country of Origin: France

Validity: 20 October 2021

Product Interchangeability:

GTIN:

SRP: PhP 4,500 per tablet

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### References

[FDA Advisory No. 2018-334-A I.I. Babala sa Publiko Tungkol sa Pagbili at Paggamit ng Napatunayang Pekeng Gamot na " Verorab Rabies Vaccine."](#)

[FDA Advisory No. 2018-334 I.I. Public Health Warning Against the Purchase and Use of the Verified Counterfeit Drug Product Verorab Rabies Vaccine](#)

[FDA Advisory No. 2018-313-A I.I. Lifting of the Advisory on Bravo \(Maca + Jatropha + Corynaea Crassa Food Supplement for Men\) under FDA Advisory No. 2018-313 dated 29 October 2018](#)

[FDA Advisory No. 2018-333 I.I. Public Health Warning Against the Purchase and Use of Unregistered Medical Device the Pure-Aid Gauze Pads](#)

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**PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION**  
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Healthline 441-7444 [www.philhealth.gov.ph](http://www.philhealth.gov.ph)



**PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR**

No. 2017 - 0003

**TO : FOREIGN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES, MEMBERS OF THE INFORMAL ECONOMY, ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, ACCREDITED COLLECTING AGENTS, PHILHEALTH OFFICES AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : Enrollment of Foreign Nationals under the Informal Economy Program of the NHIP**

**I. RATIONALE**

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of the National Health Insurance Act of 2013 or RA 7875 as amended by RA 9241 and 10606, "Citizens of other countries working and/or residing in the Philippines shall form under the Members in the Informal Economy provided they are holders of valid working permits and/or Alien Certificate of Registrations (ACRs)".

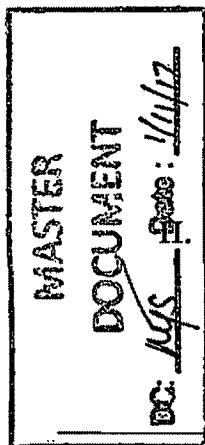
Parallel to this, the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA), an attached agency of the Department of Tourism by virtue of Republic Act No. 9593, is mandated to attract foreign nationals and former Filipino citizens to retire in the Philippines with the end-in-view of accelerating the socio-economic development of the country, contributing to the foreign currency reserves of the economy and by providing them the best quality of life with the most attractive package available.

Cognizant of their respective mandates, PhilHealth and PRA have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the coverage of foreign nationals and former Filipino nationals who elect to retire in the Philippines and ensure that they are eligible to avail of healthcare services provided by PhilHealth. Likewise, other foreign citizens working and/or residing in the Philippines not registered in PRA may enroll under the Informal Economy Program.

Thus, pursuant to PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 2093, s-2016, the Board approves specific mechanisms and applicable premium for the coverage of foreign retirees and other foreign citizens under the Informal Economy Program of the NHIP.

**OBJECTIVE**

To provide the implementing guidelines on the enrollment and coverage of retirees who are foreign nationals or former Filipinos, and other foreign citizens working and/or



4. PhilHealth LHIOs and PRA shall collaborate in the conduct of regular Information and Education Campaign (IEC) and other information dissemination activities to encourage target foreign retirees to enroll to NHIP;
5. Both agencies shall assign point person/s who shall coordinate regularly and handle all issues and concerns pertaining to the implementation of the partnership program;
6. Through mutual collaboration, both agencies shall continuously strive to improve their systems and procedures accordingly by enhancing, developing and modifying their policies to be more responsive to the needs of foreign and former Filipino nationals.

## VII. IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS

Below are the mechanisms for the coverage of PRA foreign retirees and other foreign citizens under the Informal Economy Program of the NHIP:

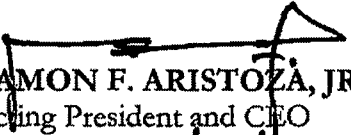
	PRA FOREIGN RETIREES	OTHER FOREIGN CITIZENS working and/or residing in the Philippines
<b>Member Registration Requirements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Valid SRRV or PRA issued ID Card</li> <li>2. Submit properly accomplished PhilHealth Member Registration Form for Foreign Nationals (Annex A) to PRA Head Office or to any of its satellite offices</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Valid ACR I-Card issued by the Bureau of Immigration</li> <li>2. Fill out PMRF for Foreign Nationals and submit to the nearest LHIO.</li> </ol>
<b>Annual Premium Contribution Rate</b>	Fifteen Thousand Pesos <b>Php 15,000.00</b>	Seventeen Thousand Pesos <b>Php 17,000.00</b>
<b>Mode of Payment</b>	Quarterly, Semi-Annually or Annually	
<b>Qualified Dependents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Filipino spouse and children below 21 years old who is not covered under the NHIP; or</li> <li>• Either the foreign spouse or one (1) of their children below 21 years old who is not a Filipino citizen</li> </ul>	
<b>Benefits</b>	Members and their qualified dependents shall be entitled to the prescribed NHIP benefits accorded to the Members in the Informal Economy in accredited health care facilities <b>except</b> for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Z Benefit Package</li> <li>b. Special privileges of Women About To Give Birth (WATGB)</li> <li>c. Reimbursement for all confinements abroad</li> </ol>	
<b>Eligibility Requirement</b>	Premium contribution has been paid for at least three (3) months within the six (6) months prior to the first day of confinement and with sufficient regularity of premium contributions. The qualifying three months is inclusive of the confinement month.	

**X. REPEALING CLAUSE**

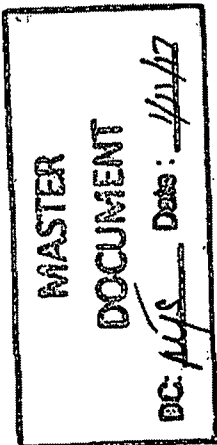
All existing related issuances with provisions inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and modified accordingly. Other provisions consistent with the foregoing shall remain valid and in full force.

**XI. EFFECTIVITY**

This circular shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

  
**RAMON F. ARISTOZA, JR.**  
Acting President and CEO

Date Signed: 1/10/17



JUN 05 2018

DEA  
DIV-1



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

09945

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

1 June 2018

Dear Secretary Duque,

The Department of Foreign Affairs respectfully informs the Department of Health (DOH) that the Danish Immigration Service is currently handling a case involving a Filipino married to a Danish Citizen, who is diagnosed with sclerosis and is currently being treated with Teriflunomide.

In this regard, the Embassy of Denmark in Manila is requesting the assistance of the DOH in obtaining the following information about the availability and accessibility of the specific drugs in the Philippines and accessibility of the required medical treatment.

1. Availability and cost of Teriflunomide in the Philippines;
2. Availability and cost of sclerosis treatment in hospitals;
3. Clarification on the possible inclusion of foreign nationals, including Danish citizens, in the national insurance scheme.

The DFA would appreciate receiving DOH's feedback on the matter for onward transmittal to the Embassy of Denmark.

With our cordial best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

*MA. AMELITA C. AQUINO*  
MA. AMELITA C. AQUINO  
Assistant Secretary

SEC. FRANCISCO DUQUE III

Secretary

Department of Health

Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila

Fax: 711-6744